Negotiation with GNLF Delegation on Gorkhaland Issue

331. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:
SHRI P. N. SUKUL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government held discussions with a delegation of the GNLF in October last regarding Gorkhaland issue; and

(b) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) A GNLF delegation led by Shri Subash Ghising had met the Home Minister on 22nd October, 1987 and held discussions with him. It was impressed upon the GNLF leadership that the matter needs to be resolved in consultation with the State Government of West Bengal. The discussions are to continue.

Migration of Families from Punjab

332. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of families that have moved into the Union Territory of Delhi in the wake of extremist activity in Punjab;

(b) whether any families have moved back into Punjab after the imposition of the President's Rule there;

(c) whether Government are offering any incentives to these migrant families so as to motivate them to go back to Punjab and resume their normal activity there; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) As on 31st October, 1987, about 4540 families had come to Delhi from Punjab, out of which 273 families have gone back.

(c) and (d) Following incentives are being offered by the Government of Punjab to motivate the families to go back to Punjab:—

(i) Transport allowance upto Rs. 2500/- per family;

(ii) Option to settle at a place of their choice in Punjab;

(iii) Provision of L.I.G. flats; and

(iv) Bank loan upto Rs. 25,000/- without any bank guarantee, 20 per cent of which would be treated as subsidy.

Excise Duty on Fireworks Manufacturers

333. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the imposition of excise duty on the fire works manufacturers in the South has hit them adversely;

(b) whether it is also a fact that if this levy is not withdrawn thousands of petty wage-earners are likely to be thrown out of employment; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to protect the interests of small wage-earners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (c) The excise duty exemption scheme in respect of certain excisable goods manufactured without the aid of power was amended on 17th September, 1987 so as to exclude fireworks from the purview of the scheme. However, fireworks would continue to get the benefit of the general scheme of exemption for small scale units. The

interests of genuine small scale units has, thus, been protected. As such, the small wage-earners are not likely to be affected.

Sati incident in Rajasthan

334. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps the Government of India propose to take to put an end to the inhuman practice of Sati after the ghastly incident of Sati in Deorala village in Rajasthan;

(b) the names of the States from which Sati incidents have been reported; and

(c) what are the year-wise figures in this regard during the last three years and what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Proposal for Central Legislation on the subject is under consideration. Efforts are also being made to involve voluntary organisations to create awareness among the people so as to prevent sati incidents.

(b) and (c) According to the available information one case of 'Sati' was registered in Madhya Pradesh in 1986 in which 16 persons were arrested and challaned in the Court. In Rajasthan there were 3 attempts to commit 'Sati' but they were foiled by timely intervention of District authorities.

Sati incident in Rajasthan

335. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to reports that 'Sati' was committed by a young woman on September 4, 1987 in Deorala village in Rajasthan and that public functions were held in the village later to glorify the event;

(b) if so, whether the event could have been forestalled and if so, what steps were taken to prevent the incident; and

(c) whether any steps were taken to apprehend the culprits who abetted the crime?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Rajasthan have reported that the local police received information about the incident after the event and after the girl had died.

(c) The State Government have further informed that a case was registered on 4-9-1987 and 58 persons including those who had abetted the crime were arrested.

Godman Chandra Swami apprehended by DRI

336. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that officials of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence or some other agency recently apprehended the 'Godman' Chandra Swami at Madras airport while he was coming from Singapore;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether any incriminating documents were seized from him and whether they were in connection with some secret information on the Bofors deal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (c)